In the case of MMTC, there is only one post belonging to ST category in Group 'D' lying vacant at its Corporate Office. The post is to be filled up through direct recruitment for which MMTC has initiated action.

Pension to Pensioners of Desert Area of Rajasthan

491. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any representation from retired Central Government Employees and Ex-servicemen regarding payment of pension to the pensioners of under-developed, backward, desert areas of Rajasthan through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering disbursement of pension through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks located in interior area, especially considering number of problems being faced by old aged persons; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Central Pension Accounting Office and the Controller General of Defence Accounts who administer the payment of pensions for civilians and Defence Personnel respectively have confirmed that they have not received any representation from the retired Central Government employees and Ex-servicemen regarding payment of pension to the pensioners of under-developed, backward, desert areas of Rajasthan, through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

UNDP Aid in Handicrafts Sector

492. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and UNDP propose to launch "Wood crafts" projects to harness the existing potential of the handicrafts sector in Southern India;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the new projects;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up "Wood Seasoning" Plant at Mysore for technology upgradation and focus on design development of wood crafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government with assistance from UNDP proposes to launch "Promoting Exports of wood based handicrafts" project to harness the potential of handicrafts sector in Southern India as well as in Northern India. The total estimated cost of this new project is around Rs. 5.60 crores. Under the project wood seasoning plant are proposed to be set up at Trivandrum and Jodhpur only.

[Translation]

New Coal Reserves

493. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge reserve of coal has been identified in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quality of coal available therein; and

(c) the time by which the mining is likely to be started there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Raigarh District encompasses major part of Mand-Raigarh coalfield in Madhya Pradesh. The total coal reserves (upto 600 metres depth) estimated as on 1.1.1997 by Geological Survey of India (GSI) of this coalfield are 9824.63 million tonnes. Of these reserves 7843.90 million tonnes are in the proved/ indicated category and 1980.73 are in the inferred category. The grade-wise break-up of the coal reserves in proved and indicated category are given below:

Grades (Non-coking coal)	Quantity (In Million Tonnes)
A	208.44
B	105.09
C	350.15
D	642.73
E, F&G	6537.49

(c) Two underground mines and one opencast mine are in operation in Raigarh Coalfield.

Tribunals

494. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tribunals were set up with a view to remove delay in justice and provide speedy justice;

(b) if so, when these tribunals were set up;

(c) whether the objectives of these tribunals have not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) the number of cases pending, till date, tribunal-wise; and